WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

70	7	
16	l 1.	A method for updating a configuration specification of a computer, the method
2	compri	sing the steps of:
3		receiving an e-mail from an administrator containing location settings encoded in an
4	attachr	ment;
5		opening the attachment to the e-mail; and
6		writing location values corresponding to the location settings encoded in the attachment
7	into the	e configuration specification of the computer.
1	2.	A method as in claim 1,
2		wherein the e-mail includes a designation of a location name corresponding to the
3	configu	uration specification; and
4		wherein the configuration specification of the computer corresponds to the location name.
1	3.	A method as in claim 1,
2		wherein the location settings are generically defined so as to apply to a variety of
3	operati	ng systems.
1	4.	A method as in claim 3, further comprising the steps of:
2		determining an operating system type for the computer; and
3		generating the location values by interpreting the location settings for the operating
4	system	type for the computer.
1	5.	A method as in claim 4,
2		wherein the interpreting step is performed by referring to program logic which translates
3	the loc	ation settings into location values as a function of the operating system type for the
4	compu	ter.
1	6.	A method as in claim 5,
2		wherein the location settings specify internet settings.

1	7.	A method as in claim 7,
2		wherein the location settings specify an internet protocol address, a domain name server
3	config	uration, a gateway, and a WINS configuration.
1	8.	A method as in claim 5, wherein the location settings specify dialing settings or local area
2	netwo	rk settings.
1	9.	A method for providing a user's client computer with configuration settings, the method
2	compr	ising the steps of:
3		specifying a location name for the user's client computer;
4		specifying location settings corresponding to the location name;
5		creating an e-mail addressed to the user having the location settings encoded in an
6	attachment; and	
- 7 - 1		sending the e-mail to the user.
1	10.	A method as in claim 9,
2		wherein the location settings are generically defined so as to apply to a variety of
3 = 3	operat	ing systems.
1	11.	A method as in claim 10,
2		wherein the location settings specify internet settings.
1	12.	A method as in claim 10,
2		wherein the location settings specify an internet protocol address, a domain name server

- er configuration, a gateway, and a WINS configuration. 3
- A method as in claim 10, wherein the location settings specify dialing settings or local area 1 13. network settings. 2

1	14.	A computer readable storage medium, comprising:
2 .		computer readable program code embodied on said computer readable storage medium,
3	said co	omputer readable program code for programming a computer to perform a method for a
4	updati	ng a configuration specification of a computer, the method comprising the steps of:
5		receiving an e-mail from an administrator containing location settings encoded in an
6	attach	ment;
7		opening the attachment to the e-mail; and
8		writing location values corresponding to the location settings encoded in the attachment
9	into th	e configuration specification of the computer.
1	15.	A computer readable storage medium as in claim 14,
2		wherein the e-mail includes a designation of a location name corresponding to the
3	configuration specification; and	
4		wherein the configuration specification of the computer corresponds to the location name.
1	16.	A computer readable storage medium as in claim 14,
2		wherein the location settings are generically defined so as to apply to a variety of
3	operat	ing systems.
1	17 .	A computer readable storage medium as claim 16, the method further comprising the
2	steps o	
3		determining an operating system type for the computer; and
4		generating the location values by interpreting the location settings for the operating
5	system	type for the computer.
1	18.	A computer readable storage medium as in claim 19,
2		wherein the interpreting step is performed by referring to program logic which translates
3	the lo	cation settings into location values as a function of the operating system type for the
4	comni	iter

- 1 19. 2 1 20. 2 3 1 21. 2 1 22. of:

- A computer readable storage medium as in claim 18,
- wherein the location settings specify internet settings.
- A computer readable storage medium as in claim 20,
- wherein the location settings specify an internet protocol address, a domain name server
- configuration, a gateway, and a WINS configuration.
- A computer readable storage medium as in claim 18, wherein the location settings specify
- dialing settings or local area network settings.
 - A computer readable storage medium, comprising:
 - computer readable program code embodied on said computer readable storage medium, said computer readable program code for programming a computer to perform a method for providing a user's client computer with configuration settings, the method comprising the steps
 - specifying a location name for the user's client computer;
 - specifying location settings corresponding to the location name;
 - creating an e-mail/addressed to the user having the location settings encoded in an attachment; and
 - sending the e-mail to the user.
- A computer readable storage medium as in claim 22, 1 23.
- 2 wherein the location settings are generically defined so as to apply to a variety of 3 operating systems.
- 1 24. A computer readable storage medium as in claim 23,
- 2 wherein the location settings specify internet settings.
- 1 25. A computer readable storage medium as in claim 23,
- 2 wherein the location settings specify an internet protocol address, a domain name server
- 3 configuration, a gateway, and a WINS configuration.

- 1 26. A computer readable storage medium as in claim 23, wherein the location settings specify
- 2 dialing settings or local area network settings.

